

# **Airport Advisory Committee Minden-Tahoe Airport Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2011**

The March 9, 2011 meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) was held at the Board of County Commission Chambers, 1616 Eighth Street, Minden, Nevada. Members present were Fred LaSor, Mike Wendling, Rick Miller and Keith Swanson. Those absent included Tim Christy, Ed Hayes and Brad Spires. County employees or representatives in attendance were, Bobbi Thompson, Airport Manager, Chris Johnson, Operations Specialist and Cathie Kite, Office Manager. Others in attendance: LindaMae Draper-Hivert and John Marsalis.

1. **Opening.** The meeting was called to order on at 6:03 PM at the Historic Courthouse in Minden, NV by Chairman LaSor. Mike Wendling led the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Awards** Chairman LaSor mentioned the award for Jim Baushke for his service to the Board and reported that Jim had called to say he would be unable to make the meeting. We will postpone his award until the next AAC meeting in May.
3. **Public Interest Comments.** LindaMae Draper-Hivert reported that the Minden Soaring Club is being reactivated and has a new board of trustees. The newly elected President is Tip Russell, Vice President, Don Marshall, Secretary, LindaMae Draper-Hivert, Treasurer, Riva Coombs, Trustees include, John (“Bumper”) Morgan, Miriano Ravazzolo, and there is still one open trustee position. The group met March 4 at the SoaringNV BBQ and have elected new officers and are planning new events. One of the things the newly organized group has decided to do is hold a contest with the support of the airport. It may be a national, regional or local sport contest – details to follow. The meeting was very well attended and soaring enthusiasts are pleased to have the club active again. They will probably meet once a month and the first Board meeting is March 20 and club meetings will be held at Soaring NV.
4. **Approval of Previous Minutes.** Chairman LaSor asked for approval of the Minutes of the January 13, 2011 minutes. Motion by Keith Swanson, second by Rick Miller, approved unanimously.
5. **AAC Updates.** Most of the rest of the meeting was spent discussing potential community outreach projects. Rick suggested that it might be a good idea to create short bios for each member of the Board so that when they speak somewhere, the group has an idea of their background. These bios could also be placed on the airport website. Fred suggested adding a photo. Staff will get this going in order to keep the format the same for all.

Bobbi Thompson reported that she had just spoken at the Vanguard Coalition meeting and found that they were quite receptive to her explanations of what is going on at the airport. They were pleased that she took the time to discuss their concerns. It is important to present a factual message. Fred suggested that perhaps an AAC board member could accompany Bobbi when she is asked to speak. Members could help answer questions and their attendance could create more invitations to other groups and events.

Mike asked if we could publish the phone numbers of board members as nobody knows who the AAC members are or how to contact them. Bobbi indicated that their names and phone numbers are already on the web site.

While there have been some very good and positive articles in the paper recently about new soaring records, etc., it was also agreed that the Record Courier could be approached to do a regular column, submitted from the airport staff or AAC board members, on airport events. Keith Swanson mentioned that it is key for us to know what the people are concerned about so that we can focus on those concerns. Keith also suggested that it might be a good idea to do an article based on "One Year After the Vote". It is important to let the people know what is really happening at the airport after the ordinance passed.

Chairman LaSor asked Chris Johnson, the new airport Operations Specialist, to give the Board an idea of his background. Chris told the Board that he spent 13 years in the Army and is a combat veteran. He has his degrees from Embry-Riddle in aviation and currently is working on his Master's degree in project management also through Embry-Riddle. He currently resides in Reno and is a member of the Reno Air Races Foundation Board.

**6. Staff Update.** Bobbi reported the airport calendar as it stands right now:

**March**

- 19<sup>th</sup> – Girl Scout Airport Familiarization: Reno area 99s will give Girl Scouts a tour of the airport.

**April**

- 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – Soaring NV Wave Camp.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Young Eagles: The Experimental Aircraft Association will conduct their Young Eagles event. The program introduces kids and young adults to flight and the potential for a career in aviation.
- End of April– Second Annual Aviation Education Day: static aircraft displays, Challenger Learning Center's traveling dome, and aerospace experiments with the 99s.

**May**

- 11<sup>th</sup> – Job Fair with Carson Valley Business Council: interviews, resume review, recruiters from companies, military, and universities will be present.

**June**

- June 24<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Civil Air Patrol National Cadet Glider Flight Academy: 20 carefully selected CAP cadets will be brought to Minden-Tahoe airport for a week of glider training.

**August**

- 20<sup>th</sup> – Boys and Girls club fundraising dinner and dance: rib cook off, music, and dancing at Hutt Aviation's hanger. Proceeds go to the Boys and Girls club.
- 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> – Western Aviation Rodeo / Light Sport Aircraft gathering: this will be a gathering of aircraft, vendors, and manufacturers of light sport aircraft. The event will include radio control aircraft, classic car display, helicopter and glider rides and more.

Dates to be determined:

- Minden Soaring Summit – the summit will include well known international soaring pilots to collaborate on what will be required for an international soaring facility.
- Movie night – in the warmer weather months we will be hosting movie night at the airport. The movies will be projected onto the wall of the Hutt hanger.

Rick indicated that if the job fair organizers need job interviewer volunteers, he would be glad to help. He also asked if we had sent anything to New Zealand since their big earthquake. Bobbi said she had called our sister city there to see if all was well and if we could do anything. It was decided that the AAC should send a letter.

Keith asked for a calendar for the Board. Our calendar is on the airport website and is included in these minutes. Bobbi asked that the Board change the date for the next meeting since it falls on the same day as the Job Fair. It was decided to move it to the next day, May 12. (That date has been confirmed as available with the Clerk's office)

Fred mentioned the soaring records that have been set in the last month. The positive articles in the paper have been excellent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 P.M.